

Message Text

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

INFO AMEMBASSY NAIROBI

AMEMBASSY LAGOS

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: USIRJC, BEXP, IR

SUBJECT: U.S.-IRAN JOINT COMMISSION: INTERNATIONAL
LONGSHOREMEN'S ASSOCIATION FACTFINDING MISSION

REF: (A) STATE 056498, 3/8/76; (B) 11/19/75 LETTER
FROM UNDER SECRETARY OF COMMERCE BAKER TO AMBASSADOR HELMS

1. COMMERCE AND STATE DEPARTMENT OFFICIALS MET WITH THE
PRESIDENT OF THE INTERNATIONAL LONGSHOREMEN'S ASSOCIA-
TION (ILA), THOMAS W. GLEASON TO DISCUSS THE PROGRAM OF
FACTFINDING MISSIONS THAT U.S. REPRESENTATION ON USIRJC
ECONOMY AND FINANCE COMMITTEE IS PURSUING. MR. GLEASON
WAS ENTHUSIASTIC ABOUT THE PROGRAM AND ITS POSSIBLE
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BENEFITS FOR U.S. BUSINESS IN TERMS

OF IMPROVED ACCESS

TO MARKET AND POSSIBLE FOLLOW-UP SALES OF U.S. PORT EQUIPMENT AND CONSULTANCY CONTRACTS. GLEASON IS WILLING TO PERSONALLY LEAD A SMALL MISSION OF ILA EXPERTS FOR A SHORT BUT INTENSE VISIT, AND FOLLOW UP TRIPS AS NEEDED. THE ILA WILL FUND TRAVEL EXPENSES FOR EXPERTS.

2. OBVIOUSLY THERE IS A PRESSING NEED FOR IMPROVEMENT IN METHODS OF HANDLING CARGO IN IRAN'S MAJOR PORTS. THE ILA AND MR. GLEASON ARE EXPERTS IN SORT-TERM PORT

REORGANIZATION. THE ILA PROVIDED EXTREMELY EFFECTIVE TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE IN VIETNAM IN EXPEDITING REDUCTION IN PORT CONGESTION AT THE PORT OF SAIGON COMPLEX IN 1965, AND HAS FIELDDED TECHNICAL TEAMS TO THE PORTS OF MOMBASSA AND LAGOS.

3. WOULD APPRECIATE EMBASSY ASSESSMENT OF LIKELY VALUE OF PROPOSED FACTFINDING MISSION AND OF IRANIAN GOVERNMENT'S RECEPTIVITY TO VISIT. EMBASSY MAY WISH TO DISCUSS SUBJECT WITH GOI AUTHORITIES, PERHAPS INCLUDING SENIOR DEPUTY MINISTER SHORAKA, CHAIRMAN IRANIAN SIDE OF ECONOMY AND FINANCE COMMITTEE. THE MISSION COULD LEAVE FOR IRAN ON RELATIVELY SHORT NOTICE. INFORMATION ON THE ILA FOLLOWS.

4. THE INTERNATIONAL LONGSHOREMEN'S ASSOCIATION, (AFL-CIO) WITH OVER 100,000 AFFILIATED MEMBERS IN OVER 360 LOCAL UNIONS REPRESENTS THE VAST MAJORITY OF AMERICAN DOCK WORKERS. THE PRESENT ILA WAS ORGANIZED AS A LABOR UNION IN 1892. THOMAS W. GLEASON IS THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNION, WITH OFFICES AT 17 BATTERY PLACE IN NEW YORK CITY. THE UNION OPERATES THROUGH ITS DISTRICTS AND LOCALS AND ALSO CLAIMS JURISDICTION OVER MANY WAREHOUSES, BOTH PORTSIDE AND INLAND.

5. THE ILA OPERATES ON THE ASSUMPTION THAT THE NATURE OF LONGSHORE WORK IN ALL PORTS FUNDAMENTALLY IS THE SAME, IN SPITE OF VARIATIONS DUE TO CARGO, TERMINAL UNCLASSIFIED

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OR MECHANICAL DIFFERENCES. ILA LTNGSHORE WORK INCLUDES OTHER FUNCTIONS SUCH AS THE RIGGING OF SHIPS, DOCKSIDE HANDLING OF GEARS, COVERING AND UNCOVERING HATCHES, THE PACKING (STUFFING) AND UNPACKING (STRIPPING) OF MISCELLANEOUS CARGO, HANDLING OF BAGGAGE, THE FUELING AND VICTUALING OF SHIPS, ETC.

6. WOULD APPRECIATE EMBASSIES NAIROBI AND LAGOS CABLING

TO EMBASSY TEHRAN, COPY DEPARTMENT, BRIEF ASSESSMENT OF
ACCOMPLISHMENTS OF ILA TECHNICAL MISSIONS TO THEIR
RESPECTIVE COUNTRIES. KISSINGER

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